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ABSTRACT

This book examines the role played by adult education in creating German-American workers' culture in 19th-century Chicago. It is based on the following sources: German- and English-language newspapers published in Chicago, memoirs and reminiscences of contemporaries, first-hand histories of the German-American labor movement, 19th-century Chicago city directories, and previously published documents. Chapter 1 traces the beginnings of German-American radicalism in Chicago from the beginnings of German immigration until the Civil War. The social and political scene of immigrant Chicago in the second half of the 19th century is examined in chapter 2. Chapter 3, which is devoted to the social context in adult (labor) education in 19th-century Chicago, considers the role of workers' clubs, newspapers, Turners clubs, and other institutions and community resources involved in informal education played in the lives of members of the city's German-American working class. The legacy of German-American radicalism after the events at Chicago's Haymarket in 1886 is analyzed in chapter 4. The afterword focuses on workers' education and the reconceptualization of adult education history. Contains 220 references, and 14 illustrations. (MN)

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